

Guide for boatowners when encountering dolphins

- Its important vessels keep their distance from dolphins and let them approach you; they are curious animals and will come to you if they want to.
- Try to keep 100 metres away unless the dolphins approach you.
- Try not to overcrowd a pod of dolphins in the water; only 3 vessels should observe a pod of dolphins at any one time.
- Vessel operators should not make any sudden changes in speed or direction and never head-on to, move between, scatter and separate dolphins. Behaving recklessly around dolphins could also cause serious injuries to the animals.
- Take special care if mothers with young are present. If unsure of their movements, simply stop and put the vessel engine into neutral.
- It's also important to remember dolphins are wild animals. You should never try to swim with, touch or feed the animals, for your safety and theirs.
- Dolphins can be aggressive, and touching dolphins can be dangerous as they carry diseases that are transmittable to humans, including brucellosis.
- If these guidelines are not followed, dolphins may become very stressed, stopping them from displaying their natural behaviours, such as foraging. They may also become separated from their pod, and a dolphin calf may die if separated from its mother.